



CUSTOM SPRAYER—This custom sprayer with three tank compartments was specifically designed for experimental spraying. It is used at the Medford horticultural station on Kings highway which is now conducting research on biological control of insect pests.

### Biological Control Studied For Reducing Insect Pests

Pete Westgard, entomologist with the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station, Wednesday will attend a panel discussion on integrated control of insect pests in agriculture. This is part of the week-long conference of the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting in Gearhart, Ore. It started Monday. Integrated control means a coordinated control of insect pests, chemically, biologically and culturally. Biologically means control by other insects who gobble up the insect pests. Culturally means control by pruning and other means so plants and trees are not so susceptible to insect damage. Integrated control may be the answer to Rachael Carson and her book, "Silent Spring."

Experiment station superintendent, were successful in securing a \$4,000 allocation from the county court and budget committee for construction of a greenhouse. This would allow year-around research on biological control at the experiment station on Hanley rd. It will be used, also, for agronomy research, screening of insecticides, study of pear decline and psylla control. Westgard said the greenhouse will be good, particularly for studying plant disease. In this area it has a tendency to jump around making it difficult for a consistent outdoor plot study. Westgard, assisted by the Medford station crew is using pear tree blocks to see if the first codling moth spray can be eliminated about mid-July to allow pear psylla predators to build up. This would be the spray normally applied between the delayed dormant and second cover spray. Elimination of any spray reduces the cost to the orchardists at a time when the predicted small pear crop requires cutting all orchard costs to the bone. Biological control of codling moth on the Pacific Coast so far has not proved practical. However, researchers at the Yakima, Wash. and British Columbia experiment stations are using gamma rays to sterilize the male moths. Release of sterile male moths

into orchards may make it possible to keep the codling moths at such a low reproduction level that orchards will not suffer economic damage. "Determining what level of insect infestation results in economic damage to an orchard is the keystone of our biological control research now," Westgard explained. "Minor defoliation on a tree does not necessarily mean it has been economically damaged by loss of tree vigor or reduction of crop." He explained he also is trying to establish a curve to learn how fast the damaging insects will build up before the predators take over. Is it before or after economic damage occurs? Answers to these questions are important to the fruit growers. The study of reproductive peaks of insects and predator insects also reveals why birds are not considered effective in biological control. They cannot reproduce fast enough to control the rapidly multiplying insects. Local Interest Orchardists became interested in biological control when they noticed some orchardists were not applying sprays for two-spot spider mite. Abandoned orchards do not have mite infestation, it was learned. Further study showed predator insects apparently had built up due to absence of sprays and controller mites.

## Farm & Garden

### Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

People are still analyzing the failure of the wheat referendum this spring. A number of possible reasons have been given, but as in any other election sometimes the worst guesses are educated guesses.

One thing sure the wheat program was backed by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman. Wheat or grain supports certainly were not any program pushed by former agricultural secretary Ezra Taft Benson. But if Benson had been pushing the same program we think the wheat referendum would have passed.

So, we feel failure of the wheat referendum actually is the failure of Freeman to put across his ideas to the farmer. This is not to judge Freeman as a bad secretary of agriculture but to question how close he is to a man of the soil—the farmers who must support and apply his federal programs.

Everything we can find out about Benson indicates he was a true evangelist for programs he believed in. But, he had to believe in a program before he would sell it. Perhaps this lack is a major weakness in the Kennedy-Freeman agricultural administration.

Unlike Freeman, also, Benson could not only talk about how a program should work, he could show the farmer. He grew up on a farm and became a county agent. In spirit he never left the farm. He could talk to farmers as one of them. He made it a point to tour agricultural problem areas, to learn what the farmers were thinking first hand, to demonstrate an eagerness to become better acquainted with the farmer's problems so as to give practical answers or proposed solutions. By practical, we mean what was farmer-practical, not politically practical. Benson consistently disregarded the latter which probably was his major weakness, according to his critics.

Benson not only contacted farmers personally in the field, but set up machinery so their opinions could be considered by the agricultural department and incorporated in its programs. He did not jam such conferences with federal personnel to "guide" public opinion as was so evident at the regional Rural Areas Development regional conference in Portland.

The National Agricultural Advisory commission was one such piece of machinery. Before acting on a specific commodity problem, representatives would be called in to discuss every phase of its production and marketing as affected by the problem. They were asked to tell what they could do and what the government should do.

The cattle crisis in 1953 is an example. Some cattlemen wanted the government to get into the cattle business and some didn't. However, the American National Cattlemen's association came out strongly against government support. So what happened? So a tariff quota was set on cattle coming in from Canada. More beef went into school lunch programs. Beef was sent abroad through the Mutual Security program. The government did buy, as a temporary expedient, the equivalent of 850,000 head of cattle. But, mainly it promoted the sale of beef. Chain stores and restaurant chains and every institution where meals are served boosted consumption of beef.

Benson tours included the drought area of Texas in 1953 by car. In 1955 he went to western Europe to try to increase outlets for surplus wheat. The same year he held a series of meetings in the Moorehead, Minn.-Fargo, N.D. area to discuss strengthening hog prices. He visited barns, feedlots, walked through fields. And this is a small sample.

We say the program failed because of lack of personal selling by the secretary of agriculture. We have heard the bushel quota plan as included in Freeman's "two-price" plan was proposed by wheat growers. From some opinions given by farmers we get the idea that the acreage control and bushel quota was too much. It indicated greater governmental control of agriculture rather than less so was feared by the farmers. Or, as analysts stated, the farmers were just sick and tired of the heaps of paper work requirements which had to be met for price supports.

The small farmer must have had a role in the referendum turn down since 734,000 small farmers were qualified to vote for the first time this year compared to 558,000 farmers who plant more than 15 acres to grain. Kansas turned it down and North Dakota passed it so whether an area was a major wheat producer had little effect.

Perhaps Republican growers turned it down because they didn't want to indicate approval of the Democratic administration by passing it. But, Oregon and Washington which have become strong Democratic states in recent years voted the wheat referendum down.

The farmers apparently were looking for security and didn't feel the tight controls would give it to them. Ironically, the tight governmental controls proposal comes at a time when the entirely governmental controlled agricultural programs in Soviet countries have resulted in crop failures.

Benson noted that "the existing program of rigid supports required strict production controls. But America did not become a great country by restricting production."

Henry A. Wallace, former Democratic secretary of agriculture earlier had said: "My greatest fear is that farmers themselves may destroy the farm legislative machinery by asking it to do work for which it was never intended."

Perhaps the farmers felt they had created a Frankenstein and turned on the monster before the program could turn on them.

### Dutch Farmers Plan Folk Festival Program

Kutztown, Pa. - The Pennsylvania Dutch farmers are adding a some thing basically new to Grange activities in America. Instead of exhibiting the prize fruits of the field at community, county, and state fairs, grangers of Pennsylvania Dutchland, aiming at a national audience, gather their farmstead heir looms from attic and outkitchen, from barnloft and wagon shed for display in the Grange hall at the Pennsylvania Dutch Folk festival.

The Pennsylvania Dutch Folk festival - the nation's largest folk event - will be held from June 29 through July 6, at Kutztown, Penn., a small college town located midway between Reading and Allentown on Route 222. As part of a daily folk panorama the men grangers will demonstrate the whole

range of farm chores from rail-splitting and setting up the "snake" and "Irish" fence, greasing the wheels of a Conestoga wagon with pine-tar extracted at the festival from yellow-pine knots, and water-witching, to harnessing and hitching up a team of work-horses, cradling and flailing grain, sheep - shearing, and changing a blutzwogga into a ladder-wagon. The women grangers as their part in the panorama, will demonstrate the preparation of traditional Dutch foods and pass around samples to pageant guests. Among the dishes will be ponbaws - a type of scrapple - mush, and smoozcase, seasonal cookies such as lepp-cakes, apes, and heifer-tongues; freshly churned butter and buttermilk; and stenner fresh "vanilla" and "tschawkalate" ice-cream.

## Ranchers Plan Show Me Tours To Cover Forest Grazing

Cards are being sent out to all stockmen in forest service range allotments asking them to contact their district rangers to arrange "show me" range tours for each allotment.

The tours will be scheduled for early in the summer and in the fall to show: Austin Klahn, new range conservationist stationed here, the condition of the various grazing areas in the Rogue River National forest when the cattle go on range and after they come off.

The stockmen are concerned that the forest service is not considering browse and logged off areas in its proposal to limit the number of beef animals on the range. The forest service has stated there will be no cut in range allotments until 1965.

During Thursday night's Jackson County Stockmen's association directors' meeting, Martin Grier, chairman of the forestry committee, said he is concerned over trespass action against one Applegate rancher. If the forest service takes severe action against this man it could set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the forest range use, he said. Fences won't control cattle 100 per cent, he added.

Don Hanscom, Central Point rancher, said even a range rider wouldn't be able to stop all cattle which might drift over onto a neighboring allotment.

Association President Gordon Stanley, Lake Creek, with Grier asked all cattlemen to send their own grazing plans to the forest service and copies to the county association. The forest service has been asked to send copies of proposed allotment plans to the county association, also, Grier said.

The Applegate stockman also asked each rancher to figure the investment per cow. He noted the forest service range conservationist had visited him and asked him for his estimate of the investment. Klahn also plans helicopter tours of the range areas, he told Grier. Two Applegate ranchers have set tentative range inspection trips already, Grier said. The public may be invited on an overall trip later, it was agreed.

Stanley suggested it would be good public relations with the forest service to discuss tree planting problems with them. The cows have been blamed unjustly for killing a number of young trees.

County Agent Earle Jossy related that OSU research indicated cows do not bother young trees except when the tender buds appear. Usually they are not on the range then. Gophers, porcupines, and difficulty in getting nursery stock established in rugged conditions are the main

### Lygus Bugs Pest Now in Alfalfa, County Agent Says

Lygus Bugs, an enemy of alfalfa seed producers, are working on alfalfa fields in the county, according to Bert Wilcox, county extension agent.

The Lygus bug can be controlled by treating infected fields with DDT at the rate of one pound per acre, plus Toxaphene at two pounds per acre, or Toxaphene at three pounds per acre, or DDT at one pound per acre. The above dosages refer to actual amounts of toxicant per acre.

Treatment should be made when Lygus adults and nymphs average one per sweep during the pre-bloom period. Research in other states suggests a second application during bloom period only if population of nymphs and adults reaches eight to ten per sweep. Do not feed DDT or Toxaphene treated plants or ensilage made from treated plants to poultry, dairy animals, or animals being finished for slaughter. Do not permit animals to graze on treated fields. Do not use on forage to be sold commercially. Do not apply Dylox within 14 days of cutting or grazing.

To protect bees Lygus bugs, apply insecticides in early morning or late evening, Bert Wilcox says. The adults are about 3/16 inch long. Lygus bugs vary in color from yellowish green to reddish or dark brown. The presence of a light yellowish "V" shaped mark on the back of the adult is helpful in distinguishing Lygus bugs from other insects. Nymphs are wingless and frequently mistaken for aphids in the field. They can be distinguished from aphids by their sturdier bodies and ability to move about rapidly. Lygus bugs overwinter as adults. In early spring they resume activity during warm, mild days, laying eggs in plant tissue, usually in the terminal growth. There are several generations produced each year, Wilcox says. Lygus bugs feed by sucking juices from the plant. Nymphs feed more actively than adults and are believed to most damage. The insect sucks juices from productive portions of the plant causing blasted buds, blossom drop, and shriveled seed.

### Scale, Mites Now In Local Trees

Some San Jose scale and two-spotted mites are showing up in local orchards, according to Don Berry, county agent.

San Jose scale crawlers have emerged, he noted. Growers with this problem should apply such spray materials as Diazinon or Parathion now, the county agent recommended.

Two-spot mites are building up, he pointed out. PEPP is recommended. Kelthane or Tedlone was applied in early June, but some mites are now resistant to these materials. Where mites are present in large numbers growers should spray three-fourths pint or 40 per cent PEPP per acre on every other row and use only 100 to 150 gallons per acre as the larger gallonages dry slowly and may cause some tree injury, he explained.

This material should be applied on days which are warm and still. Repeat the spray in three to five days and spray the alternate unsprayed rows. Where no crop is present delay controls until some injury appears in the center of the trees.

Generals pull rank Hythe, England—(UPI)—Farmer Ray Edwards said Monday he had to move his cows from an army training ground because "generals didn't like being stared at by cows." He said his cattle were friendly but no respecters of rank. "I have seen them walk up to high-ranking officers and look over their shoulders," he said.

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KELTHANE AP. I've been checking the orchards of some of the big apple and pear growers around here. They all use KELTHANE AP. You should see how clean their trees are!

Are you sure it will kill the mites we've got? Dead sure, honey. KELTHANE AP kills just

about any mite that attacks apples and pears. European red, two-spotted, McDaniel, Williams, apple rust and clover. Its action lasts, too—kills off migrants and new colonies. And it won't hurt mite predators.

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